



Ceiling collapses

By **Ashley Sizemore**
Assistant Editor

The water came pouring down Thursday morning. Usually, you would find this to be a weather report; however, it happened indoors in the Student Activities office located in the Student Union.

"I guess the pipes that keep cool water, which feed into the air conditioner got too full and made the roof tiles collapse," said Student Activities Director Marina Avalos-Kegley.

This unfortunate accident ruined a computer, printer and copier. Everything else was moved into conference rooms for temporary storage.

The reception area and student resource area, where clubs and organization conduct and create most of their advertising, as well as the Blue Room were soaked. Kegley's office and Emile Callahan's office remained dry, as well as the ASi office and the bookstore adjoining sides.

The roof collapsed early morning around 2 a.m.

"Luckily, no one was in here when it happened," said Kegley.

Facilities Management responded after receptionist Claudia Esparza found the office at approximately 7:30 a.m.

They removed all wet materials and started repairing the ceiling. Repairs are to be only a few days long.

Marina assured The Runner that the clubs and organizations' mailboxes were fine and that poster making was still available in the hallway.

Photo courtesy of Marina Avalos-Kegley

Photo Left: The reception area and student resource center ceiling collapsed around 2 a.m.

ASi flashbacks 2007-2008 year

By **Wendy Hernandez**
Assistant Editor

As the year comes to an end, time in office for the ASi student body ends too. For the 2007-2008 academic school year, CSUB had four students in office. Elena Avina as president, Valerie Poynor as executive vice president, Adriana Sandoval as vice president of finance and Wendy Martinez as vice president of programming.

Every year students at CSUB vote during the ASi elections. Students can read the candidate bios along with their goals and statements of what they will do if elected for their position. A school year in itself seems long enough for some goals and proposals offered by those candidates running for office, however, in some instances, nine months is not long enough.

Elena Avina stated last year that if elected she would get the campus more involved with current issues. She wanted to educate the campus on the events that are directly affecting them. She also wanted to work on advocating and lobbying against student tuition increases and to improve the college experience for CSUB students.

Avina was not alone on the lobbying efforts. Valerie Poynor also stated last year that if elected she should confront the issue of increasing student fees by organizing lobbying efforts. She also wished to continue her efforts on the statewide level and wished to work to stimulate student life. She wanted to start an inventory system for student organizations so they could check out free materi-

als to use at student events.

What has been done since their election? Have their goals been accomplished? Some goals have reached better progress than others.

"One of our biggest pushes was for advocacy instead of programming. We have developed into a programming board over the years and the problem is to get the culture back to advocacy," said Avina. "We went back to change positions for the next year. We need one person to focus solely on legislative affairs."

In the past, the executive vice president position – the present position today – used to be separated into a vice president of internal affairs and a vice president of external affairs. Next year, the positions will be executive vice president and vice president of legislative affairs.

With respect to getting students more involved locally on current issues, ASi brought the mayor, Harvey Hall, to speak on campus. The legislative process was one topic of conversation.

In regards to lobbying efforts, CSUB's ASi stays active with rallies and lobbying within California State Student Association -- CSSA. ASi belongs to CSSA, which is the formally recognized voice for CSU's student body governments. Though ASi does not currently pay any dues, they attend the statewide meetings in order to address CSUB's personal issues first. Along with attending the statewide meetings, ASi hosted two regional conferences, consisting of six universities, for the first time this year.

"I feel like we have accomplished a lot this year.

We have the new legislative affairs position which is a big step with advocacy and we had the march back in April at the state capital," said Poynor.

In regards to starting a new inventory system, Poynor states, "we started the idea process and how to implement the process. Everything clubs purchase with ASi funds is ASi's so we can keep track of them and allow other clubs to use the products. We have a list but it's not too organized. We also don't have a place to store the inventory so it makes it harder. Usually we just store the smaller equipment in a room in the Student Union."

According to Sandoval, "there is a lot of funding; \$40,000 is allocated to give to the clubs for the whole year. This year, there was lots of new clubs requesting funds."

ASi funds not only clubs and organizations, but athletics and the Children Center as well. Financially, they are in good standing. There is a financial audit done yearly; along with the Chancellor's Office audit that was done this year for the purpose of revising the policies and recommending any changes.

Efforts in increasing the quality of student experiences on campus were handled by Martinez. She organized many events such as: The Luau, Homecoming, Welcome Back Week, the Thanksgiving Lunch, many Get Rowdies and plenty more.

"This year there was a bigger turnout for The Luau and Homecoming. In the past we've had about 100 people show up at The Luau, where as this year there were about 400 students. We even

ran out of food which hasn't happened before; it's a good thing though. And for homecoming last year we reached maximum capacity with 1,500 students, so this year we moved to a bigger location. An estimated 2000 students participated that night," said Martinez.

Though getting more students involved in activities was possible, Martinez still wished to have gotten the AV campus students more involved as well. "I had in mind a competition between main campus students and the AV campus students, like in karaoke or something of that sort," said Martinez.

With a lot of hard work being done by these full-time students, no one can expect their work be done for sheer joy. Of course hours and hours of work is put into their positions, along with plenty of meetings to attend. Certainly, no hourly wages are given, however stipends are. The executive president receives \$600 a month, while all other vice presidents receive \$500 a month. These numbers went up from about three years ago when they used to be \$400 and \$350 respectively.

At a year's end, many footsteps have been set for the future officers. All the members "loved being part of ASi and enjoyed it." Some wished there would have been more time.

ASi and the board of directors hold weekly meetings that are open to the public, every Friday at 3:45 p.m. The budget and information on events and services along with general information can be found on their web page. www.csub.edu/asi

Alliance encourages students to act

By **Nathan Campbell**
Editor-in-Chief

Students and faculty on the Student Union Patio were encouraging passing students to write a letter to the governor yesterday in an effort to increase awareness of an impending budget cut to the CSU system.

"We're getting people informed," said Sandra Quinones, a volunteer at the event hosted by an organization called Alliance for the CSU.

The information offered was startling – \$288 million is the shortfall in the current state budget for the CSU system. This could lead to a fee increase for students, larger, overcrowded classrooms, longer times to graduate, more students denied enrollment, class cancellations and Cal Grant B being eliminated.

According to literature being passed out at the event, for every dollar invested in the CSU system, \$4.41 is generated, 90,000 CSU graduates enter the work force every year and the CSU supports 527,000 jobs.



Nathan Campbell/The Runner
Alliance for the CSU is campaigning to eliminate the \$288 million deficit in the CSU budget for next year.

The campaign to get more money allotted to the CSU has shown some success, however, by getting \$97.6 million back from the initial deficit of \$368 million.

Students interested in participating in the campaign should email yourvoice_csub@yahoo.com or visit their website at www.alliancefortheosu.org.



Photo By Juan Torres/ Runner

2008 Greek Week coverage on Pages 4 and 5.

THE RUNNER

Volume XXXIII, Issue 27

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Letters to the Editor are encouraged; however, they must be signed and verified to be considered for publication and should be no more than 300 words in length. All letters may be edited for clarity and length.

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By Ellen Piris
Assistant Editor

Around campus it seems many students are either married or engaged. This union of love between two people is almost always demonstrated with the traditional diamond ring. The ring, however, is not the symbol of love it is believed to be.

The horror and degradation others had to endure to make that diamond ring possible are incomprehensible. In several African countries countless lives have been destroyed by the abuses of the diamond industry. Sierra Leone was ravaged by a civil war, which revolved around diamond mining, from 1991 to 2002. The Revolutionary United Front (RUF), formed by Foday Sankoh, known as "Papa" by his followers, fought for control of the diamond industry, and massacred over 75,000 citizens and dismembered and displaced tens of thousands more in the process according to AfricaAction.org. The RUF traded these diamonds with other countries in order to gain more weaponry to continue their brutal conquest.

The RUF is primarily made up of soldiers who were taken from their homes as children. These children were brain-washed and drugged until they were easy to control. Commanders would often either inject the child soldiers against their will, or cut them and pack the wounds with cocaine said AmnestyUSA.org and BBC News. These children, typically kidnapped or tempted with power and status, are trained to mutilate, rape, kill and otherwise terrorize and intimidate Sierra Leone's citizens.

One of the RUF's trademark



Photo courtesy of AmnestyUSA.org

The RUF's prisoners diamond mining in Sierra Leone.

tactics was the amputation of the limbs of civilians. This was their way of defying President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah's campaign for Sierra Leone's citizens to "join hands for peace." The U.N. estimates that Europe's international diamond trading centers helped fund the RUF's terrorizing and murder by purchasing approximately \$125 million worth of diamonds each year. Al Qaeda used the purchase of diamonds from the RUF to launder money in order to enable the easy and untraceable resale to support their terrorist acts upon the freezing of their assets worldwide by the United States and its allies, said AmnestyUSA.org. De Beers, the world's largest diamond producer, purchased diamonds from Sierra Leone up until the 1980s. Since then their trading has been focused on Liberia and Guinea, neither of which produce large amounts of diamonds. Liberia is known to be a country where diamonds are often smuggled from Sierra Leone says AfricaAction.org. One diamond executive was said to

have had nightmares that the slogan on De Beers' commercials had become "Amputation is Forever," said AmnestyUSA.org.

The U.S. House Committee on Africa received written testimony on conflict diamonds from De Beers in 2000. This testimony claimed, "De Beers knows all too well the deleterious effects that conflict and political instability often have on potential large scale investors... Having spent hundreds of millions of dollars on advertising its product, De Beers is deeply concerned about anything that could damage the image of diamonds as a symbol of love, beauty and purity," reports CNNStudentNews.CNN.com. There does not seem to be anything loving, beautiful or pure about the exploitation, mutilation and murder of tens of thousands of innocent men, women and children. The main concern of the diamond industry is not that of a humanitarian organization, it is the capitalist goal of big business: profit. The main concern is making the sale, not how many

lives were ruined by the accumulation of these gems.

Average consumers do not seem to be concerned with the situation in which their diamonds were procured. Their only interest is in the material and shallow prestige that a diamond carries with it. Diamonds carry a certain status with them because of their high price. This price, however, is far greater than monetary.

In 2003 the Kimberley Process, a process that certifies a diamond as conflict free, was implemented. Although this process has begun to curb the

purchase of conflict diamonds, much still needs to be done. Diamonds are still smuggled from Sierra Leone into other countries, which can make it difficult to identify as a conflict diamond. Although the civil war in Sierra Leone has been officially over for some time, the abuse and devastation is long lasting and its people will be recovering for years to come.

Perhaps a Cubic Zirconium would be a safer option; just as beautiful as a diamond, yet far less costly in both lives and dollars.

The incredible disregard for humanity that has been caused by diamond mining is unbelievable. Maybe we should consider diamonds less as a symbol of love and more as what they really are: a symbol of hate, greed and violence.



Photo courtesy of ABC News

Maria Tukamara, a 14 year-old mother whose arms were amputated when the RUF invaded her village.

Physics professor is distinguished researcher

By Eman Shurbaji
Features Editor

Physics is a field defined not by simple calculations, but by understanding theoretical concepts. It can be difficult at times to grasp such concepts; they are abstract and involve formulations.

For Dr. Vladimir Gasparyan, however, physics is more than just teaching or learning—it is about great projects and research. To date, Gasparyan has over 80 publications in distinguished journals worldwide, and often gets invitations to do research around the world.

A native of Armenia, Gasparyan grew up and went to school in the capital, Yerevan. Having excelled at math and physics while in high school, he decided to study physics with the faculty at Yerevan State University.

There, he entered a 5-year program and got his masters and later Ph.D. His thesis dissertation was about the theory of weak localization in dirty metals.

Gasparyan began to teach in 1972. He has taught at numerous universities around the world, including his alma

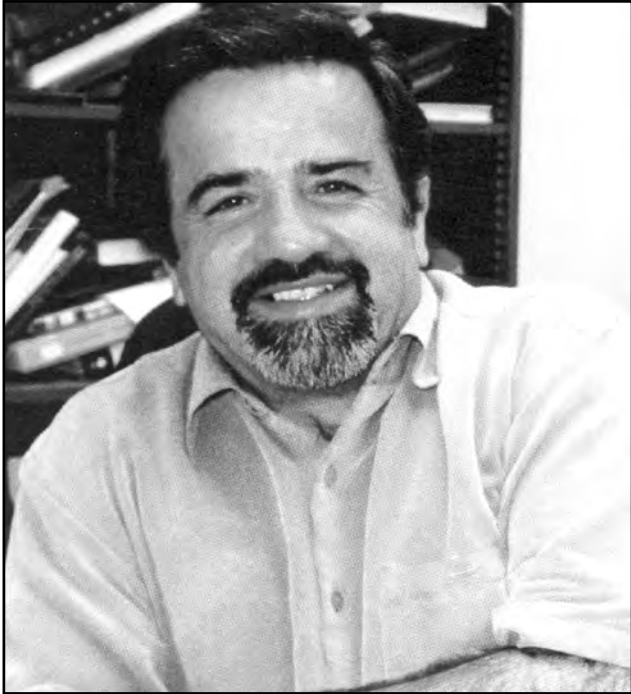


Photo courtesy of (RCU)

Dr. Vladimir Gasparyan.

mater Yerevan State University, the Institute of Nuclear Physics, Universities of Spain (Murcia, Alicante and Granada), Universities of Germany (Koln and Essen), University of

Geneva and the University of Guanajuato in Mexico.

Due to his presence around the world, Gasparyan speaks four languages fluently: Armenian, Russian, English and Spanish. He also speaks a little French.

"I speak four and a half languages," said Gasparyan.

Although he enjoys teaching, Gasparyan truly loves to do research. He claims that seeing something happen is different than actually reading about it.

"I like that you can understand and see physics," said Gasparyan.

Many of the articles Gasparyan has published have to do with Condensed Matter Physics. Some of the topics he has written about are quantum transport in low-dimensional disordered systems and tunneling time

in nanostructures.

His devotion to physics research can be further proven by his appointment as Associate Member and Senior Associate Member of the International Center for Theoretical Physics in Italy and Scholar of the Institute for Theoretical Physics at UC Santa Barbara.

Gasparyan is also busy with his family. He is married and has two sons. Gasparyan has lived in Bakersfield for the last six years, and says that it is a nice place to live. He goes to his home country every summer to visit his family and friends.

In addition to research, Gasparyan has other hobbies as well. He is a skilled chess player; while in high school one of his friends was so good he went on to be a champion player. He is also an abstract artist, and often sketches pictures of his students for fun.

What will Gasparyan be doing during the summer? Research, of course.

"I will go to Japan for one month to do research," he said.

What a surprise.

RUNNER ON THE STREET

By Wendy Hernandez, Assistant Editor

This Week, The Runner asked The Runner Staff, "What was your favorite story this year?"



Ashley Sizemore
Assistant Editor

"The Plain White Tees review... it rocked."



Juan Torres
Photo Editor

"The Used, the Rally for Hillary and the Lakers game."



Nathan Campbell
Editor in Chief

"My favorite stories are the ones that are done on time."



Phillip Barnett
Sports Editor

"Why am I writing my own answer in this pink notebook? Isn't Wendy supposed to be doing this?"



Eman Shurbaji
Features Editor

"I really enjoyed all the research articles."

Lambda Pi Eta inducts new members Athletics gets a new face

By Emily Shapiro
Assistant News Editor

The local chapter of the Communication Honor Society of Lambda Pi Eta inducted its newest members last Wednesday.

Eleven students were inducted into the society along with 32 other students who received recognition of being the “Who’s Who” among American Colleges and Universities for 2007-2008.

The night began as Dr. Andy Alali, chair of the Communications Department, gave a welcome to the crowd of inductees, families, friends and guests. He then proceeded to introduce the members of the department, including Dr. Donna Simmons, Professor John Emig, Professor Judith Pratt, Professor Kelly O’Bannon-Miller, Professor Emily Thiroux, Professor Christina Cruz-Boone, Dr. Elizabeth Jackson and Professor Mary Slaughter.

Slaughter then introduced the guests to the crowd. The guests were Dr. Shelley Ruelas, Dr. Jacqueline Mimms, Dr. Stanley Clark and Emmanuel “Manny” Mourtzanos. A brief history of Lambda Pi Eta was given by O’Bannon.

Lambda Pi Eta is the official undergraduate National Communication Honor Society. Founded in 1985, it has over 200 chapters and over 4,000 members nationwide. It is fully accredited by the Association of College Honor Societies.

Logos or Lamda means logic, Pi



Emily Shapiro/The Runner

Mary Slaughter and inductees to Lambda Pi Eta

or Pathos means relating to emotion and Eta or Ethos defines character credibility and ethics. The LPH chapter at CSUB received its charter on May 25, 1999. Its official Greek name is Iota Zeta.

Goals of Lambda Pi Eta include recognizing, fostering and rewarding outstanding scholastic achievement.

The requirements of LPH include having a Communications GPA of at least 3.25, being in good standing at the college or university and displaying the commitment to the field of Communications.

The inductees were Bobbie Leann Buetow, Sandra J. Crumlish, James L. Davis, Lissa Mara Dirkson, Rebecca Elise Fiske, Jordan F. Mayer, Samuel L. McGauhey, Michael Brooks Neil, Rebekah Lynn Nupp, Cymbre A. Waite and Michelle Y. Zigler. Each student was then presented with a plaque and a honors cord. They then repeated the oath and were officially

inducted into the society.

Following this was the presentation of recognition certificates to the 32 students for the “Who’s Who” Among Students in American Colleges and Universities. This presentation was given by Jackson, Simmons, Cruz-Boone and O’Bannon Miller. The awardees are as follows.

Daniel Atondo, Chris D. Baden, Vockie A. Calabrese, Jacob K. Chandler, Kathryn R. Coats, Destin D. Cook, Noah G. Cornell, Bradley W. Cramer, Sandra J. Crumlish, Rhonda J. Deal, Lissa M Dierkson, Jesse R. Garcia, Christine L. Grontkowski, Jammie C. Hooker Cheryl F. Fitzsimmons, Teresa A. Leach, Carson L. Lindaman, Taarna M. Long, Christa C. McCann, Samuel L. McGauhey, Michael B. Neil, Rebekah L. Nupp, Tara L. Polhamus, Nancy L. Regalado, Isabel Z. Rios, Emily Shapiro, Rosie E. Shriver, Eman M. Shurbaji, Erick M. Sinkovits, Justin M.

Stufflebeam, Graciela R. Suarez and Gregory S. Watson.

Winners of two separate scholarships were announced by Pratt. Grace Glende, Chris Baden and Carly Cates were the recipients of the Bakersfield Californian Scholarship and Eman Meriam Shurbaji was the recipient of the Don Hopkins Advertising Scholarship.

Sam McGauhey was the Iota Zeta Outstanding Graduating Senior Awardee “He stands out for his writing ability,” said Simmons, as she introduced him to the crowd.

Michelle Mize was the Outstanding Alumnus Awardee. Mize is a 1990 Communications graduate who owns her own advertising business. She showed a short film which illustrated some of her work and her clients, including Eagle Mountain Casino and Brighton Parks. She had excellent advice to give to the graduating seniors, “Expect to pay your dues, and be nice. Never burn any bridges,” said Mize.

At the end of the ceremony the Communications faculty, led by Simmons, presented Alali with a token of their gratitude for his service as chair of the department of nine years.

“I’m going to Disneyland,” said Sam McGauhey who swept all the awards that night. On his future plans he was unsure, “If anyone reading this can tell me, they’d be doing me a favor,” said McGauhey.

By John Paul Horn
Guest Writer

CSUB athletics has a new Athletic Development Coordinator. Brian Powell, a 24-year-old recent graduate from the University of Louisville, has taken the mantle.

Powell, who holds a Masters in Sports Administration, started working for the Athletics Department at the beginning of May. Although he has only been in Bakersfield for a few weeks, he said there are noticeable differences and similarities between Bakersfield and his home, Kentucky.

“It’s hotter here than anywhere. The color is different here. It’s brown here. Kentucky was a lot more green. The sports schedule is killing me. I can’t get used to the West Coast schedule,” explained Powell.

Some things that Powell enjoys about Bakersfield are things that many in town might take for granted.

“Bakersfield is a decent sized place but still small enough to get around town. I’m enjoying the sunshine; it’s rained all year in Louisville,” said Powell.

Powell found out about the position in athletics by going to the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) website. His job is to fundraise for athletics.

According to Powell, more scholarship monies need to be raised and can’t be drawn from the athletics operating fund. All scholarship money must be raised privately. The current goal for fundraising this year is

\$556,000, a 61 percent increase from last year. His personal goal



John Paul Horn/ The Runner

Brian Powell, a new face in athletics.

is to find new donors for the scholarship fund and to meet the goal for the year.

When asked about his dream job, Powell is very definite about his future plans.

“I want to be a college athletic director for a D1 school. Fundraising is becoming so important, like an arms race, I fell like this is a good avenue for me to get there,” explained Powell.

Powell is excited to be a part of this university and looks forward to attending sporting events, especially to support the new baseball team. Baseball definitely holds significance for Powell as he played baseball for the four years of his undergrad at Georgetown College.

“Baseball is going to hit the ground running. We’re getting good teams, good facilities and good student athletes,” stated Powell.

Although Powell misses home, his friends and his family, he is excited to be here, looks forward to his job at CSUB and hopes to meet more students.

Crime Beat

Parking remains an issue for CSUB

Compiled by Ashley Sizemore
Assistant Editor

May 15, 2008 Thursday
9:02 am Assist Other Agency

Occurred at Stockdale Hwy/ Don Hart East. BPD is en route to the area on Stockdale Hwy NE of campus to assist an elderly female that appears to be stuck on her motorized cart. They called to see if we by chance had an officer in the area that can verify she still needs assistance. Units will continue to the call until we notify BPD of the situation. Disposition: Unable to Locate. BPD was notified.

3:33 pm Vandalism Report

Occurred at Parking Lot J. To her vehicle. She is now at home. Report Taken. Investigation is continuing.

7:03 pm Disturbance (on campus)

Occurred at Student Services... Subject possibly intoxicated. Report Taken. Officer was able to locate a ride for the person.

May 17, 2008 Saturday
11:37 am Traffic Collision (hit and run)

Collision occurred at University Police Department. Report only. Happened 5/16/08 Report Taken. Investigation is continuing.

5:42 pm Disabled Vehicle Officer initiated activity at Don Hart East, (Unknown Address), C S U Bakersfield. No Further Action Required. Vehicle is out of the roadway.

May 18, 2008 Sunday
6:25 pm Lost Property Report

Occurred at University Police Department. Reporting person is a student/employee who lost his university-issued keys. Report Taken.

7:47 pm Suspicious Circumstances

Officer initiated activity at Parking Lot I. One male subject at recycling bins. No Further Action Required. Subject was dropping off recyclables.

May 20, 2008 Tuesday

1:08 pm Disturbance (on

campus)

Occurred at Parking Lot D. An argument occurred over a parking space. Gone On Arrival. Officer checked the area.

2:27 pm Found Property Report

Occurred at Administration West. Reporting person found a driver’s license and social security card. Report Taken. The property was stored for safekeeping.

10:43 pm Check the Welfare

Occurred at Walter Stiern Library. Reporting person states he is in the 24-hr study room and there is a female late 60s-early 70s, wearing a night gown that is disrupting students trying to study. The subject told reporting person that she suffers from periodic seizures and she is laying down, medical aid declined, reporting person states subject appears to be homeless. No Further Action Required. Officers called a taxi, and the subject returned home.

By Eman Shurbaji
Features Editor

The scenario is a familiar one: you are looking for a good parking spot as you eye your car clock with three minutes until class starts. You begin to panic, and wonder why parking is an issue at CSUB.

However, there are two proposals that have been submitted to ASi regarding parking, and these proposals relate directly to student tuition increases, parking fees and the new recreation center.

According to Elena Avina, ASi president, finding a parking place is not an issue: finding a parking spot one wants is the issue. Students often complain of inadequate parking while the real issue they are addressing is that they are seeking spots closer to their classes.

Originally, the Board of

Directors was presented with a proposal by the University Transportation Committee that would increase the parking permit fees from \$36 to \$45 each quarter. All of the parking lots

period,” said Avina.

The increase in the cost of parking permits can be attributed to the funding of new projects, including two new parking lots. The parking lots would be new

the recreation center and Dore Theatre, and would each have 250 spaces. The cost of implementing the project will cost over \$2 million.

Since the current plan for the Student Recreation Center is to have it be complete by the fall of 2008, it is believed that Parking Lot K will be overcrowded. A new parking lot south of Kroll Way for the Student Union and Rec Center was thus proposed.

However, ASi does not feel the need for the parking projects to get underway since it does not warrant an interest to increase current parking fees. Only time will tell if more student enrollment and greater traffic congestion will lead to the construction of more parking lots.

and maintenance of lots and roads are all funded by parking permit sales.

Although CSUB currently has the cheapest parking rate in the entire CSU system, the increase would be a great reminder of the tuition increases that continue to occur.

“ASi proposed that the increase take place over a time



Eman Shurbaji/The Runner

One of many parking lots inconvenient to CSUB students.

Greek This is how



The ladies of Gamma Phi Beta taking the audience on a journey to Gammieland.



The ladies of Nu Phi Chi pose with the flags that they used in their talent show themed after Battleship.



Juan Torres of Kappa Sigma celebrating the fact he is not the father in their talent show performance.



Sandra Vicuna of Nu Phi Chi helping the girls "catch a phrase."



The ladies of Kappa Delta Nu having a game show based on the game of Life.

Greek Week Talent Show

By Bryson Paul
Staff Writer

The Greeks showed everybody how they rolled this past Thursday at the annual Greek Week talent show.

The talent show is the capstone event for the weeklong competition between sororities and fraternities on campus and allows the organizations to showcase their hard work, talent and unity.

The Greek Talent show took place at the patio of the Student Union at 6 p.m. right after the ASi barbecue. The weather was comfortable and there was no sign of rain coming along to ruin the outdoor festivities.

The organizations battled

it out on stage for the highly sought-after prize of points, which would later be tallied to determine the winner of the week of festivities.

Always a crowd pleaser, this year's talent show was no different. The organizations each performed skits or choreographed routines incorporating humor, dancing and singing. Kicking off the talent show was a rendition of Jumanji by the Delta Zeta Tau fraternity. Cross dressing, dancing and acting went into their performance.

Next was Phi Sigma Sigma sorority, who choreographed a dance, which matched their theme of the board game Monopoly. Their performance earned

them fifth place in the talent show, but they went on to win Greek Week in overall points.

Next to perform was Gamma Phi Beta which took the audience on a journey to Gammieland. Their performance featured a girl having a sweet journey to find her aunt.

Following Gamma Phi Beta was the ladies of Nu Phi Chi. Nu Phi Chi marched together to the Village People Song "In the Navy."

Following Nu Phi Chi were the ladies of Kappa Delta Nu and their game show based on the board game Life, which featured the "Thriller" dance.

Kappa Sigma pushed the envelope with their comically uncensored produc-

tion of a dice game gone wrong that became a murder mystery themed after Clue. During the dice game, a shoot-out takes place leaving one brother presumed dead, which sparks a chain of events leading to a search for the real killer - which ended up being Marina Avalos-Kegley. The fraternity spoofed South Park's "Oh My God! They killed Kenny!" with "Oh My God! They killed Blue!" They then spoofed the Maury Povich show, Chris Farley on Saturday Night Live and an R&B group. Another brother, junior Troy Witham, tap danced across the stage, and freshman Nick Ramsey led the fraternity in a popular dance called "Thizz."

The last performance of the evening was by Theta Chi which truly touched their theme of Operation.

From beginning to end, the talent show was hilarious. All of the fraternities and sororities appeared to have put it a lot of thought into their production as well as practice. The competition was friendly, and for the evening, Greeks were able to set aside their rivalry to enjoy each other's hard work.

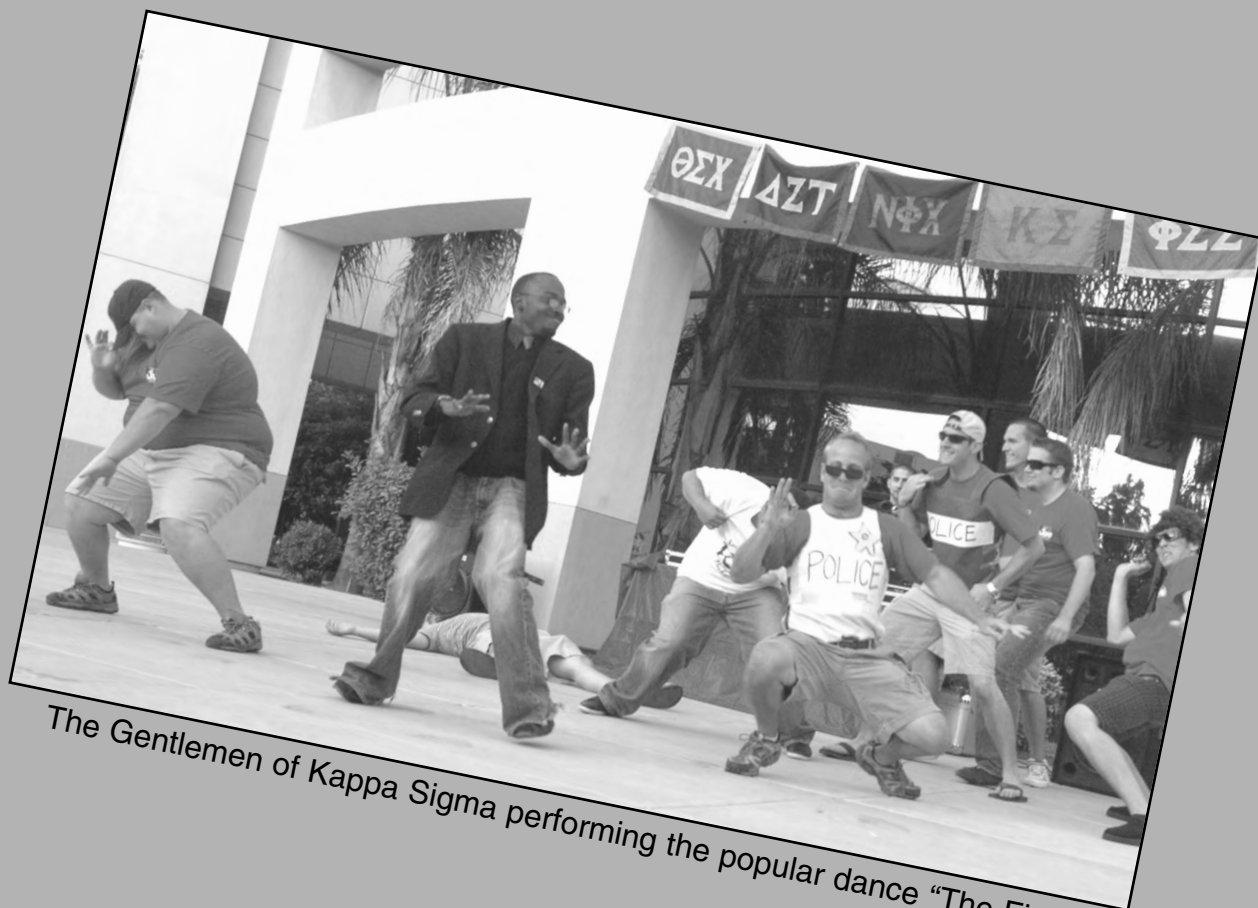
The evening was capped off with music provided by DJ Mike as people were able to dance the night away in front of the houses built for Greek Week.

Week 2008

we roll



Gamma Phi beta Practicing for the three legged race.



The Gentlemen of Kappa Sigma performing the popular dance "The Fizz."



The gentlemen of Theta Chi posing for a snapshot.



The Gamma Phi spinners helping the candy girl during the talent show performance.



The gentlemen of Theta Chi performing the dance associated with the song "Thriller."



The ladies of Phi Sigma Sigma getting ready to "chuck a chicken."



The gentlemen of Delta Zeta Tau getting ready in the last-minute game of Ping Pong.

Guest column: Exposing the truth about Israel and Palestine

By Senior Seminar in Sociology, SOC 490
David Arrieta, Liane Carabajal, Jon Colucho, Marisela Cuevas, Elizabeth Gallardo, Melissa Gibson, Millie Gilliam, Meghan Haversack, Matthew Hering, Erica Hernandez, Andrew Jones, Adrianna Medina, Maria Montoya, Miguel Perez, Diana Quintana, Hortencia Ruelas, Whitney White, Jennifer Wilson-Leer

Recently, Israel celebrated its 60th year of sovereignty, marked by joyous celebrations. However, another tradition continues to exist for Israel; the illegal occupation of the Gaza Strip and West Bank, better known as the Israel and Palestine conflict. In 1967, the U.N. unanimously passed Resolution 242, which established that, Israel withdraw from all occupied territories. Presently, Israel maintains a commanding presence in these territories, which has facilitated the continual illegal establishment of Jewish settlements. Palestinians have been the victims of Israeli dominance for over 40 years. During this time, zealots from both sides of the conflict have engaged in desperate acts of vengeance in which the vast majority of casualties are innocent civilians. The United States has aided Israel in becoming one of the largest military powers in the world, and continues to provide exorbitant economic and mili-

taristic resources. During Fiscal Year 2007, the U.S. gave more than \$6.8 million per day to Israel and \$0.3 million per day to the Palestinians¹. What is not reported in the U.S. mainstream media is that American tax dollars are going out to aid Israel in the continual illegal occupation of Palestinian territory. Clearly, this perpetual conflict is fueled by a combination of Israeli and U.S. imperialistic political ideology and mutual disregard for U.N. rulings. The Palestinian plight of survival seems to have little sway in this matter. Ironically, one would imagine a Jewish State as having strong sentiments of sympathy and appreciation of humanity given their experiences in the Holocaust. Apparently, these sentiments do not apply to the Palestinian people. It has been said that the victims of war are the civilians. Palestinian civilians living in occupied territories each day encounter the faces of death as they witness the causalities of war. Numbers of Palestinian versus Israeli deaths not only have been misrepresented in the American media, but have been disregarded. The number of Palestinians killed by Israeli security

forces is staggering. According to Amnesty International, between 2000 Israeli deaths in the West Bank. The number of deaths total 67. Palestinian minors killed by Israeli security forces are 625 in the Gaza Strip and 310 in the West Bank and only three Israelis. Since September 2000, a reported number of 6,845 Israelis and 32,213 Palestinians have been injured². These numbers do not include Palestinians who died after medical treatment was delayed due to restrictions of movement, Palestinians killed by explosive devices on their person, the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli police, border police, or check-point gunfire³. This middle-east conflict and U.S. involvement continues to create animosity amongst agitated Arab nations. The U.S. has succumbed to a media that has presented Israel as a non-aggressor, and when faced with violence it only responds out of retaliation. The media's depiction of this conflict is undeniably biased and fails to capture the true extent of the tyranny and injustices enacted upon the Palestinian people who are the innocent victims of this retaliation. Air strikes by Israel are not uncommon, but media coverage of the ensuing destruction is rarely recognized within

the U.S. It seems as though we are not supposed to see these images of child size limbs protruding from massive heaps of rubble. Establishing peace between these two countries must be accomplished. The current conditions with which Palestinians are relegated serves to breed and foster resentment for both Israel and the U.S. This resentment, which is a result of a U.S. sponsored Israeli government, will continue to manifest itself in the form of suicide bombers and terrorism. Clearly, the root of terrorism and hostility towards the U.S. and Israel is linked to our egocentric and illegitimate foreign policy. GET INFORMED! For more information visit www.democracynow.org, www.ifamericansknew.org, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories at www.btselem.org, watch Palestine-Israel 101 (free through google video) and Peace, Propaganda, and the Promise Land: Media and the Israel-Palestine Conflict (free through google video).



Photo courtesy of geology.com
A map of present day Israel.

An international experience

Courtesy of Public Information

Four California State University, Bakersfield students will head to Europe and one will study in Korea for the 2008-09 academic year as part of the CSU's International Program. The students and the country where they will study are: Mireya Salgado Rojas, Spain; Luis Jauregui, Spain; Mandy Wallace, Germany; Nathan Wallace, Germany; and Matthew Frank; Korea. The International Program provides students an opportunity to spend a year at one of more than 50 universities in 19 countries doing coursework for CSU credit. "I am really excited and happy. This experience is totally going to change my life," said Rojas, who looks forward to exploring

Madrid. Rojas will take upper division general education classes, including the history of Spain and art. She believes the trip will change her personality for the better. "I'll have to be more open-minded when I go and I think that the people will be really friendly," Rojas said. She anticipates that experiencing a different way of living will make her appreciate what she has here at home. She also hopes to gain more confidence by being out on her own. Marina Avalos-Kegley, CSUB's IP coordinator, is excited to see more students pursuing the opportunity to study internationally. She indicated that participating students will gain cultural awareness and a competitive edge in the work force through

real world and personal experiences. Studying abroad is affordable and manageable. Avalos-Kegley added that student coursework taken abroad counts toward a degree, while paying CSU rather than international fees. Elizabeth Jackson, faculty adviser for IP, shares Avalos-Kegley's excitement about the program. "Last year we had two students, this year we have five, and next year we hope to have 10," Jackson said. There is no limit to the number of students from a single CSU campus that can study abroad, but acceptance into the program is very competitive. For more information about the CSU International Program, please contact Avalos-Kegley at (661) 654-3091.

Graduation information

Graduation is around the corner and a total of 1,300 students will be graduating this spring.

School of Business and Public Administration
Day: Friday, June 6 2008
Time: 4 p.m.
Place: Icardo Center
Guest speaker: Michael Olajue

School of Education
Day: Friday, June 6 2008
Time: 12 p.m.
Place: Icardo Center
Guest speaker: Jean Fuller

Congratulations to all CSUB graduates!
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Day: Friday, June 6 and Saturday, June 7 2008
Time: 7:15 a.m.
Place: CSUB Amphitheater
Guest speakers: Bill Thomas and Robert Yohe

School of Sciences and Mathematics
Day: Saturday, June 7 2008
Time: 12 p.m.
Place: Icardo Activities Center
Guest speaker: Kim Hortons

Volunteer Abroad

By Eman Shurbaji
Features Editor

Summer is not just about leisure and fun. Sometimes, it is good to get out see the world. For some, this may be a relaxed vacation, but for others, it can mean volunteering and helping others. There are plenty of ways one can volunteer, includ-

ing working for human rights organizations, assisting the needing, or teaching English. Here is a list of websites that will help you secure a position volunteering in a foreign country: <http://www.habitat.org/>, <http://www.networkforgood.org/volunteer/>, <http://www.gvi.co.uk/volunteer-options/>, and <http://www.volunteerafrica.org/>



Photo Courtesy of internabroad.com



Photo courtesy of internabroad.com



RunnerO is The Runner's online magazine, featuring videos from around campus and around town produced by Runner staff members.

Check out RunnerO at www.csub.edu/runner and click on the RunnerO link.

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Synergy: Senior exhibition at Todd Madigan Gallery

Photos by Darla Kendrick
Staff Photographer



Courtesy of Public Information

Twenty-five senior student artists will be showing their drawings, photographs, videos, installations, sculptures, ceramics and paintings in this dynamic, colorful, thoughtful, and sometimes racy and quirky exhibition. Gallery hours Wednesdays-Saturdays, noon-6pm. Free admission (daily parking permit \$2). On Saturday, June 7, the gallery will open immediately after commencement ceremonies, or about 10 am.



Social Work students present their projects

By Ekaete Udoh
Staff Writer

On Friday May 23, students – who are in the process of completing their Master’s degree in Social Work – presented their projects from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Romberg Nursing Center. A poster presentation was also held from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in DDH. There were 30 students from main campus and 10 students in the Antelope Valley completing their Master’s.

Roseanna McCleary, an associate professor in the department of Social Work, stated that the students did a community project where they would partner with an agency to research a social problem or a need in the community. The students have to develop a project. They have to come up with a hypothesis, the project has to be accepted by a research sponsor, and they work with an agency and get approval through there. Then, they go

through the process of actually developing the project,” said McCleary. McCleary stated that they would develop a project tailored to that need. When asked a time span of the completion of the project, McCleary stated that this took well over three quarters to a year to complete these projects. When asking McCleary about collaborative between the students, she stated that they all support one another. Trish Feliz, who did a project on the Attendance

Motivation Factor of Mental Health clients, stated that she was looking for factors intrinsic and extrinsic motivation inhibitors of clients that attended the program. “It actually took me about a year. I started my research last summer,” stated Feliz. Mayra Gonzalez’s, project titled “Community Needs Assessment of People Residing in Lamont, Arvin and Weedpatch, California, with a Focus on Agricultural Workers,”

ranked highly in competition. In collaboration with the Dolores Huerta Foundation, Gonzalez’s project was concerned with education, employment, income, and medical insurance, visiting the doctor and dentist and reasons why. Gonzalez added that, “The population in these communities is predominately Latino and their needs are growing and it needs to be addressed,” said Gonzalez.

Congratulations
graduating seniors!



Good luck on your finals
and have a great summer!

-The Runner

Spurs versus the Lakers: Transcending itself

By Phillip Barnett
Sports Editor

Last Wednesday night the San Antonio Spurs appeared in their fifth Western Conference Finals since the turn of the millennium when they traveled to Los Angeles to take on the Lakers. The Lakers also be played in their fifth Western Conference finals in the same time. Both teams having three world championships under their franchise's belts since Y2K, making this the most important playoff series of the decade.

When basketball historians look back at previous decades in NBA history, there is a team or two who define the said era (minus the '70s where no NBA team won more than two titles, nor did any team win back-to-back titles, mainly because of the growing popularity of the ABA and players going back and forth between the two leagues). In the '50s the league saw its first dynasty in the Minneapolis Lakers. The '60s featured the leagues most dominate dynasty of all time when the Celtics won every title of the decade except in 1967 when the 76ers took it. The '80s saw another Lakers dynasty, winning five titles in the decade and the Celtics took three of the remaining five and the '90s were all about Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls. This decade, however, has been different from decades past.

The first three years of the millennium seemingly proved that we were in for another decade of Lakers dominance with Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal leading the Lakers to three straight titles, a team that seemed virtually unbeatable in a seven game series, but as we have all learned over the years, good things never last, sometimes they don't even have to end. The 2001 Lakers mirrored the Roman Empire in 117 AD and Phil Jackson was the Lakers Trajan to

the franchise's empire. By 2003 we saw signs of the falling empire as egos began to split the team into two factions, one on Bryant's side and one on O'Neal's side. And, just like the Roman Empire as it eventually fell to the Byzantine Empire, the Lakers fell by the hand of the Detroit Pistons in 2004 as the Motor City convincingly picked apart a Lakers team that every one picked to win the series. The Lakers coach, Phil Jackson, just like previous great military minded Roman leaders, ended up being replaced by a figurehead who couldn't handle the position – Rudy Tomjanovich.

Even with a good young core of players in Bryant, Caron Butler and Lamar Odom, Rudy T was unable to handle the pressure of being the head of the Los Angeles monster and was controlled by the ones he was supposed to be controlling and ended up having to resign only 43 games into the season, leaving career assistant coach Frank Hamblen in control of a mess the Brawny Man couldn't clean up with one roll of paper towels; leading to the Lakers missing the post season for the first time in 10 years. The next season the Lakers brought in Phil Jackson, but got rid of Butler for Kwame Brown, which led to two more years of misery in Hollywood as the Lakers spent their mid-Aprils getting eliminated by the Phoenix Suns. Fast forward to the Summer of 2008 and Lakers fans didn't even know if the best shooting guard to lace up a pair of sneakers since Jordan was ever going to put on a Lakers uniform ever again.

Even with all of the off-season drama, the



The Spurs won three titles between 2003 and 2007. Another title will put them one up on the Lakers.

photo courtesy of ESPN.com

Lakers finished with the best record in the deepest Western Conference the NBA has ever seen, a roster full of solid young players who know their roles almost as well as the core of the 1996 Bulls team, and of course, the League's most valuable player. After blowing past the Denver Nuggets in the first round and out lasting the Utah Jazz, the Lakers are now matched up with a franchise that has been as storied as they have been (at least on the court).

In the last NBA game of the '90s, the Spurs defeated the New York Knicks for what would be their first world championship in franchise history. However, at the turn of the millennium, they

saw the Los Angeles Lakers take the next three titles while they could do nothing but watch from their homes in San Antonio.

Before the 2003 season started, legendary center and an even more legendary "good guy," David Robinson, announced that he would retire following the season. The Spurs took a page out of the Lakers book and took advantage of a new arena and won 60 games that season, and would eventually go on to win the title with Tim Duncan winning his second Finals MVP. Duncan would prove in this series that he is the best power forward in the league while being double and triple teamed



The Lakers won the first three titles of the decade, a fourth would have to go through the Spurs.

photo courtesy of ESPN.com

every time he touched the ball. He found open teammates throughout the series, leading to guys like Stephen Jackson and Steve Kerr having a great series. The next season, the Spurs seemed poised to make another Finals appearance, but after being up 2-0 against the Lakers, they would go on to lose the next four games.

The Spurs would regain their swag in the 2005 season while Greg Popovich would prove to be the best coach of decade, and the leader of one of the most prestigious franchises of the modern era. Much like

the Romanov's, who were in and out of control of Russia, the Spurs were in and out of control of the Western Conference throughout the decade and were able to win titles in 2003, 2005 and 2007. The Lakers were the Godunov family to the Spurs' Romanov. After the Bulls last Finals run, the Spurs soared into the spotlight much like the Romanov family did when the Roman's princess Anastasia married Ivan IV of Muscovy. After the death of Anastasia, the Romanov family (or the Spurs) lost control of Russia (or the Western Conference) to the Godunov Family (or the Lakers). The Spurs would follow the pattern of the Romanovs from 2003 to 2007, and now, after the Spurs sped past the Suns (again) and took their time against the Hornets, they are matched up with the Lakers for conference supremacy once again.

Since 2000, the Spurs and the Lakers have meet in the playoffs four times and have played 21 post-season games against each other with the Lakers winning three of the series and 13 of the games played. However, the Spurs have been much more consistent during that span. Because of each team's

success this decade, this series transcends itself, and there haven't even been too many NBA Finals series that have done that in the past (maybe the 1984 Finals where Larry Bird and Magic Johnson would face off in the only Celtics-Lakers Game 7 of the decade and the 1998 Finals where Jordan would lead the Bulls to a second 3-peat in one decade), much less a Conference Final of this magnitude.

I say the series transcends itself because this series isn't really about this series. This series isn't just about Tim Duncan battling it out in the paint with Pau Gasol or Kobe Bryant trying to outscore the back court of Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker. This series isn't just about Phil Jackson moving his proverbial rooks against Greg Popovich's exotic knights nor is about the six combined Larry O'Brien Trophies between the two franchises since 2000. This series is about what people are going to think 10 to 20 years down the road. When people talk professional basketball from 2000 to 2009, they'll talk about the 2000 dunk contest, the 2003 draft class, the Pistons and either the Lakers or the Spurs. Sure, the other team will be mentioned, and maybe have a feature on a DVD about the decade, but they won't be the superior team of the more dominant conference, they'll be the other team, and that is why this series is so important. Either Kobe Bryant or Tim Duncan can engrave their names in stone as definite legends with six (or seven) more wins this post season, and either Phil Jackson or Greg Popovich can add to their ever growing legacies. This series is, in essence, is what professional basketball is all about. This will be a series for the ages, a quintessential heavy weight bout that was pre packaged for ESPN Classic. You don't have to be a Spurs or a Lakers fan to appreciate what this series could mean for the league, you just have to be a fan of basketball. This is going to be a good one, hopefully you'll be watching, I know I will.

CSUB Athletics Award Banquet

Courtesy of Sports Information

Wrestler Garth Wara, softball player Bethany Snow and soccer player/thrower Steve Trojanowski earned top honors at the annual CSUB Athletic Awards Banquet.

Wara, a senior from Madera High School, won CSUB highest athletics honor, the President's Award, presented annually to the Roadrunner who best exemplifies the student-athlete ideal in terms of academics, athletics and community service. On the mat, Wara won 12 matches while leading the 'Runners to a 9-3 dual meet record. He is a graduating next month with a degree in kinesiology and a 3.59 grade point average. He earned Academic All-Pac-10 honors while helping CSUB wrestling place 13th nationally in the NWCA team All-Academic standings - finishing ahead of such Ivy League notables as Harvard, Cornell and Penn in the classroom.

Snow and Trojanowski captured the Flachmann Awards, which are given annually to the top male and female Roadrunners based on athletic performance. Snow, a senior from Agoura Hills High School, completed her three-year softball career by



photo courtesy of Sports Information
Women's Soccer coach accepts the Kegley-McCall Award.

earning first team NCAA Division I All- Independent honors and second team Louisville Slugger All-Region honors. She became the first 'Runner in any sport to earn all-region recognition at the NCAA Division I level. She finished the season hitting .335 with 13 doubles and four home runs this season.

Trojanowski, a junior from La Verne's Damien High School, was a standout athlete in two sports for the 'Runners this season. In soccer, he finished the season ranked No. 9 among NCAA Division I goalkeepers by averaging 6.06 saves per game, including a school-record 18

saves in a season-opening upset of Portland. He also allowed just one goal in a near upset at NCAA national runner-up Ohio State.

Trojanowski also developed into one of the top throwers in CSUB's storied throws program. He threw 183-1 in the hammer at the final meet of the season to tie for the No. 17 mark on the all-time 'Runner list.

Softball second baseman Cara Klein (Madera HS) and men's diver Evan Crocker (Liberty HS) walked away with the 'Runner of the Year Awards. The award is voted on by the student-athletes and presented to those who best represent the spirit of 'Runner Athletics.

The women's soccer team won the Kegley-McCall Award, presented annually to the Roadrunner team with the highest aggregate grade point average. The women's soccer team finished with a 3.01 team GPA, 37 points higher than the average GPA for the student body as a whole. In fact, 13 of CSUB's 16 intercollegiate teams posted GPA's above the CSUB average.

The banquet capped the 2007-08 athletics season at CSUB -- the first full season of NCAA Division I competition.

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